



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1907.
Partly cloudy to-day and to-morrow;
diminishing northwesterly winds.

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PRICE TWO CENTS.

BIG KANSAS CITY BANK FAILS

COMMERCE NATIONAL GIVES UP UNDER HEAVY WITHDRAWALS.

President Woods Declares That Every Depositor Will Be Paid in Full and That Stockholders Will Lose Nothing—Crash Had Been Threatened for a Month.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 5.—Overwhelmed by a wave of distrust that has been steadily wearing away its resources for nearly two months, the National Bank of Commerce, the largest bank between St. Louis and San Francisco, suspended business this morning and is in charge of the office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

At 8:30 o'clock this morning James T. Bradley, national bank examiner, received a telegram from the Comptroller of the Currency appointing him receiver.

In about six weeks the bank has paid off \$3,000,000 of its deposits, reduced its loans \$19,000,000, cut down its cash resources \$11,750,000 and sold \$2,000,000 of high grade bonds, all in the effort to meet the demands upon it.

But there has been a continued drain, culminating yesterday with a clearing house debit balance of nearly \$400,000, which the bank was forced to meet.

Fearing that to-day's exactions would be beyond its power to pay, the directors decided to give up the fight and let the bank be liquidated.

The directors were in session last night until after midnight and again this morning at 7 o'clock, considering plans for continuing business, but they finally decided that the task was too great.

Of approximately \$16,000,000 in deposits tied up in the suspension about \$5,000,000 belongs to Kansas City people. The remaining \$11,000,000 belongs to out of town banks.

The only banks affected by the suspension were the two small branches of the Commerce Bank in the West Bottoms, the Stock Yards Bank of Commerce and the Union Avenue Bank of Commerce, and the First National Bank of Argentine. These institutions together had only a few hundred thousand dollars of deposits. The first two did not open this morning. The third closed at noon.

When the news of the suspension became generally known there were some withdrawals from other banks, chiefly by small depositors. These withdrawals, however, were more than compensated for by the new accounts opened. Dr. W. S. Woods, president of the failed bank, said to-day:

"It was a terrific fight. We were talked to death. People who ought not to have done it, circulated stories against us. They frightened depositors, and they withdrew their money. We paid out more than \$10,000,000 in thirty days. I would like to know how many banks could stand that and keep on in the face of a growing lack of confidence and anxiety about one bank, with that kind of a situation, pounding, day and night, all the time."

"I stood here and collected \$10,000,000 from our customers through my wicket. Ten million dollars is a good deal of money, but it went out almost as fast as it came in. There was no stopping place. The drain was continuous and the stories were kept in circulation. But there had to be a stopping place with us. We sold bonds on a market that was down. We sold or put up with the clearing house yesterday and night, all the time. The bank was the best in the city. Merchants who carried accounts with us and owed us money would come in and pay what they could. For instance, if a firm owed us \$100,000 and there was \$10,000 coming due I would urge immediate payment of that much. The merchant would give a check on his account in our bank and that would only reduce the showing without adding to our cash."

"The Waters-Pierce Oil Company did us a tremendous amount of harm. Two weeks ago they sent to all their agents and traveling men in the Southwest circular letters telling them that in making collections they might take checks on any bank in Kansas City except the National Bank of Commerce. These were shown to traveling men and reached the country banks that had deposited with us. Millions in country bank deposits were transferred to other banks here and to banks in St. Louis. Those circulars helped to cause it in my opinion. Our office has been to insist on the payment of a balance by a bank in St. Louis in which the oil people were interested."

"Chicago and New York banks offered to help us on certain conditions, but there was a string tied to the offer that we could not quite reach. It involved a note signed by all the directors, and the directors were ready to sign last night, but there was another string and we could not quite reach it. We had a heavy balance against us in the clearing house yesterday and there would be more to-day, so there was nothing for us to do but close."

"The merchants of this town stood by us nobly. I hope our failure will not hurt any of them. We have a collateral and the bank will pay out to the depositors every dollar. I believe the stockholders will get back the full value of their stock. This bank ought never to have failed, but no bank can turn all its assets into money in a few days under conditions like those we have confronted in the last month."

The following statement from the bank to the public was issued this afternoon:

"Much as we regret to do so, we are compelled to close the doors of the National Bank of Commerce because we have not been able to collect money from our borrowers as fast as the same was demanded by our depositors."

"During this panic we have reduced our deposits from \$34,500,000 to about \$16,000,000, thus paying out over the counter and by transfers to other banks in this city and other cities about \$18,000,000 of deposits. This of itself tells of our resources. We have made the fight of our life, but could not stand the slanderous statements made against the bank."

"We hope to be able to open up the bank again in the near future for business. We do not believe it possible for a depositor in the National Bank of Commerce to lose a dollar. We beg your indulgence and forbearance until our affairs can be arranged to the satisfaction of all interested parties. We appreciate sensibly the confidence our numerous customers, large and small, have

METROPOLITAN CASH TIED UP.

One Time Deposit of \$214,000 Got Back From August Belmont & Co.

It was learned yesterday that the receivers for the Metropolitan Street Railway Company had threatened to sue August Belmont & Co. for \$214,000, which was deposited with the firm by the former officers of the Metropolitan. This money was put on deposit about two weeks before application was made for receivers for the New York City Railway Company. A six months certificate of deposit was taken by the Metropolitan. It was pointed out yesterday that the depositing of the \$214,000 on time in this way took the money out of the funds immediately available for the company's expenses.

When the receivers ran onto this certificate of deposit they made a demand on Mr. Belmont for the full amount. He refused at first to pay it, contending that the transaction was entirely regular and assuring the receivers that they would be paid when the certificate of deposit became due. Then the receivers, it is understood, threatened suit and Belmont & Co. paid over the full amount.

It is said that this is not the only instance that the receivers have found of time deposits. They intend to collect as many of the others as possible and thus reduce the amount of receivers' certificates which will have to be issued to make the improvements in equipment required by the Public Service Commission.

The \$214,000 that was deposited with Mr. Belmont was the balance left from a \$2,300,000 issue of bonds by the Central Construction Line in 1904. This \$214,000 has been carried as a special construction fund.

Mr. Belmont issued a denial of a statement published yesterday afternoon that the payment of the money by his firm was "restitution."

TO EAT BAR AT WHITE HOUSE.

A Little Brown One Arrives From Mobile for the Hunters' Dinner.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Preparations for the hunters' dinner at the White House to-morrow night are going merrily on, and the feast promises to be a big success. The dinner will be spread in the state dining room, but the menu will not be confined to the conventional dishes.

The raw material for the pièce de résistance arrived at the White House in an express wagon this morning. It was a brown bear from Mobile, Ala., shipped here especially for the dinner at which the President will entertain some of the men who have accompanied him on his expedition for big game, especially the recent trip to the mountains of Louisiana. The bear is a small one and not over fat.

There was quite a gathering of White House visitors waiting to see the President when the express wagon drove up with the bear, which was wrapped in a white cloth. The shrouded covering gave the little bear a pathetic appearance, which was emphasized by a fire that burned on the dead animal's face. There was no appearance that the bear had been killed in deadly combat, and in fact there were some remarks from the bystanders when it appeared that the bear had been robbed from one of the hind legs of the little beast.

Two of the men who will be among the principal guests at to-morrow night's dinner were also entertained by the President last night at the White House. They were Mr. and Mrs. Taft, who were in the city for the celebration of the President's birthday. Mr. Taft, who accompanied the President on his recent hunt in the mountains of Louisiana, besides those there were present Gov. Cummins of Iowa, Gov. Comer of Alabama, ex-Gov. Pardee of California, Harry S. New, chairman of the Republican national committee, Marshall Ballitt of Kentucky, and Surgeon-General Koss.

TAFT'S FRIENDS ASSURED.

They Say Roosevelt Has Let No Third Term Doubt in Their Minds.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Republican national committee members and other politicians who called at the White House yesterday to-day and who have spent a good deal of time exchanging views between themselves and with friends of President Roosevelt are saying to-night that since they have come to Washington they are pretty well satisfied that President Roosevelt will in no circumstances accept a nomination to a third term. Arthur I. Vorys of Columbus, Ohio, and other Taft boomers are telling people that the President is leaving no doubt in the minds of Secretary Taft's friends that he (the President) is for Mr. Taft.

This story, however, does not coincide with the idea obtained by other persons who have means of getting information from the White House. They say that Mr. Roosevelt has not hesitated to express his disapproval of some of the Presidential candidates in the field, but that in addition to kind words for Mr. Taft he has said some pleasant things about Senator Knox. But while the accounts of the President's attitude toward the several candidates for the nomination do not agree, there is comment along the line that Mr. Roosevelt is strong much more freely about the third term movement, and while there is no evidence that he has made any direct statement within the last day or two that he is not a candidate, his remarks on the subject have been signed by the Taft friends as entirely out of the race.

GEN. GROSVENOR FOR SENATOR.

Sage of Athens, Ohio, Says He's a Receptive Candidate for Foraker's Place.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 5.—Gen. Charles H. Grosvenor, known for years in the House as the Sage of Athens, announced to-night that he was a receptive but not an active candidate for the United States Senate to succeed Senator Foraker.

He took a rap at Congressman Burton, President Roosevelt and William Jennings Bryan and wound up by stating that he was against any revision of the tariff where such revision interfered with the protection afforded under present schedules.

"My friends have asked me to announce my candidacy for the Senate," said the General. "I have replied to all of them that if the commission for the Senatehip were handed by the Senate, I would accept it." Speaking of Roosevelt, he said:

"Roosevelt is a wonderful man, but he was not made for the head of a big private corporation. On the other hand, we have Bryan, with Government ownership of railways and his proposition for a trust of national banks. This trust would make all others pale into insignificance."

Gov. Hughes at Brown Alms Dinner.

ALBANY, Dec. 5.—The annual dinner of the Brown alumni of this section of the State was held at the Fort Orange Club to-night and there were speeches by President Faunce and Gov. Hughes.

President Faunce came here for the dinner and was entertained by the Governor at the Executive Mansion.

TRUST COMPANY RESERVES

25 PER CENT. ON DEMAND DEPOSITS IS FAVORED

In Each of Two Plans Considered by the Governor's Commission—If Either Is Enacted Into Law Some Clearing House Arrangement Is Sure to Follow.

The commission appointed by Gov. Hughes to suggest amendments to the banking and trust company laws of the State has under consideration among other matters two plans relating to trust company reserves. Each of them contemplates the maintenance of a 25 per cent. reserve on demand deposits, with the result that if either of the recommendations is enacted many trust companies will again enter the clearing house or will establish a strong organization of their own.

One plan provides for the maintenance of a 25 per cent. reserve on all deposits, whether demand, time or trust deposits of trust companies, with the proviso that the trust companies are to maintain a 10 per cent. reserve in the banks and a 15 per cent. reserve in their own vaults. Many of the most prominent trust company officers object to this plan. They hold that they should be left at liberty to retain in their own vaults or deposit with banks or clearing house agents as much of their reserve as they desire. In the future as in the past, they say, many of them no doubt will carry large balances in banks, but they see no advantage in making compulsory a fixed ratio of bank balances.

If the other plan is adopted the trust companies will be asked to maintain a 25 per cent. reserve on demand deposits, but no reserve at all on trust deposits except in cases where the trust is about to terminate and the money tied up in trust is about to be released. For time deposits a nominal reserve, say 5 per cent., will be demanded, except in cases where the time deposit is approaching maturity. Roughly the idea regarding time deposits is that in case of a deposit for one year, for instance, only a nominal reserve will be required until the last month, perhaps, of the year, but in the period preceding maturity a larger reserve must be maintained.

The members of the commission will make no expression of their views on these or other recommendations for amendments of the banking law. They take the position that out of courtesy to the Governor their views or conclusions should be withheld until after the submission of the formal report. It is known, however, that the members stand together in lines of action. Some of the trust companies favor going into the clearing house in case of full membership can be secured. Others prefer the formation of a trust company clearing house on the lines of the bank clearing house. But they are practically unanimous, it was said, in desiring a strong, compact and useful organization for the protection of mutual interests.

AUSTRIAN-MONTENEGRIN CLASH.

The Little Foe Appointed in Time to Avoid a Visit From Warships.

VIENNA, Dec. 5.—The bodyguard of Nicholas, Prince of Montenegro, arrested in a coffee house at Cetinje, the capital, last Tuesday a man named Dakovitch, who recently killed and wounded several persons with a revolver and escaped over the Austrian border into Dalmatia. Montenegro troops pursuing him as far as the Dalmatian coast of Greece. Austrian troops intercepted the Montenegrin as they were returning and captured some of them. Austria demanded an apology for the violation of territory and sent two warships to support her demand, but the Montenegrin Premier, M. Tomarovich, had apologized before the arrival of the ships. Austria, however, still retains the captured Montenegrin.

Dakovitch was wanted by the Montenegrin authorities in connection with a Pan-Servian bomb plot against the life of Prince Nicholas which was hatched in Belgrade. One of the conspirators was arrested by the Austrian police at Kattaro and a number of bombs were found in his possession. The Pan-Servian agitation is directed to the union of all Servian and Croatian elements into one State.

The Montenegrin accuse the Servian Government and court of being privy to the designs of the Pan-Servian conspirators and find justification for their suspicions in the hostile tone of the Servian and Croatian press toward Prince Nicholas.

RYE POSTMASTER CAUGHT.

Wrote Letters From Indianapolis to Friends at Home.

On information sent by Postal Inspectors Jacobs and Meyer of this city George P. Rye, N. Y., was arrested yesterday in Indianapolis. Nichols had registered at the Hotel Edwicks in that city under the name of William Hunter. When arraigned before the United States Commissioner there he admitted his identity and waived examination, consenting to return to Rye.

On the night of November 19 Nichols took \$700 in cash from the post office safe and left town. On investigation after the flight it was found there was a shortage of \$2,100 in the money order and postal funds. Nichols was bonded to the amount of \$11,000 and his bondsmen are Charles P. Gleason, John Gierster and George Graham, all well known citizens of Rye.

Nichols's whereabouts were discovered through letters written to friends in Rye. Nichols says he got drunk and wandered away in that condition.

"When I took charge of that post office last April," he said, "I appeared to get crazy and at once began gambling. At first I took a small sum from the office receipts, lost that, and in games which followed I tried to retrieve the losses but found myself getting deeper in debt. So hard pressed was I that I started drinking, and here I am, after one month's wandering in the West, a prisoner."

Nichols said that when he left Rye he had about \$300, which he had taken from the post office.

HAAS'S Restaurant, Park Row Bldg. Perfection in cuisine and precision in service. Music.—Ad.

SWUNG, FREEZING, HIGH IN AIR.

Steeplejack Hangs in Narrow Seat for Seven Hours.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 5.—Arthur O'Donnell of New Rochelle, N. Y., stared death in the face this afternoon while for three hours he hung suspended in the air, where his frail rope seat 100 feet in the air, where he hung suspended from the spire of Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Finally, just as the clocks were striking 7, the firemen caught a hole in the side of the steeple and released the fall line which had become entangled in a cornice of the church after O'Donnell had descended three feet.

He was almost frozen stiff when he attempted the descent at 3 o'clock, having been in the air since 11 o'clock in the morning gliding the cross on the spire.

As the rope caught, he jerked and pulled, only to find himself tightly held.

Patrolman Peter Hill, far below, heard a call, a mere whisper, "Send help!" He looked up, saw O'Donnell's plight and summoned the firemen from No. 3 house near by. Ladders were unavailing; climbing was tried, but proved futile, and O'Donnell's instructions were of no use. Just after 5 o'clock O'Donnell called: "I can't stick it out much longer."

Then the firemen tore a hole in the steeple and lowered the seat, in which O'Donnell waved back and forth, almost unconscious. As the seat touched the earth before a crowd of thousands O'Donnell collapsed. He was stiff from cold, his hands and face frozen and he seemed as one dead.

"I've been in that fix four or five times before," he said later, "but escape always was easier. I might have slid down the fall line, but it meant danger of death, so I stayed where I was. I was almost frozen before I started down or I would have slid when I saw you couldn't get me right away."

LEAPS FROM HOTEL WINDOW.

New York Woman Seeks Death Soon After Arriving in Pittsburgh.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 5.—Elizabeth Reunek of New York city, well dressed, and apparently about 35 years old, jumped from a third story window at the Monongahela House at 1:30 this evening. She is now at the Homoeopathic Hospital unconscious and will probably die. Both legs are broken, her skull is fractured, she is injured internally and it is feared her back is broken.

The woman arrived in Pittsburgh at 8:30 o'clock over the Baltimore and Ohio. To the porter at the station she said that her brother, Frederick Reunek, who she said was prominently connected with the Union Switch and Signal Company, was to have met her. She seemed greatly agitated when she failed to appear, and after waiting three-quarters of an hour went to the Monongahela House, opposite the station. She registered from New York and was assigned to a room on the third floor.

Almost immediately she rang for ice water. It was sent by a negro porter. When the porter entered the room Miss Reunek, who was standing near the window, turned, glanced at the porter, screamed, threw up the window and plunged through. Whether the sudden appearance of the negro frightened her or whether she had contemplated suicide no one knows.

There is nothing on her person to indicate her New York address. The police are trying to locate her brother, but so far have failed. His name does not appear in the city directory and he probably lives in one of the suburbs. Miss Reunek wore valuable jewelry and had a large sum of money with her.

HAFFEN AND COLER NENT

Borough Presidents Offices to Be Investigated by the Mayor's Orders.

MAYOR McClellan has ordered the Commissioners of Accounts to investigate the affairs of the offices of the Borough Presidents as soon as they have finished the Ashokan dam inquiry. For a long time the Mayor has been receiving complaints and there have been reports of irregularities in the spending of public money. In the case of one Borough President at least it has been charged that he has evaded the legal provision that contracts calling for an expenditure of over a thousand dollars shall be awarded only by public bidding.

First President Coffey of Brooklyn will next come under the scrutiny of the Commissioners of Accounts, and the heads of the other three boroughs will be taken up in turn. In each of the boroughs as they are probed there will be really two investigations proceeding simultaneously. While Commissioner Mitchell is holding a public inquisitorial examination of the Borough Presidents and their departmental heads, Commissioner Gaynor, with a staff of expert accountants, will be at work on the books and records of the departments which come under the jurisdiction of the borough heads.

EMIGRANTS RATHER AUSTRIA.

So Many Returning From America That the Railroads Can't Carry Them.

VIENNA, Dec. 5.—The rush of home coming emigrants from America is causing trouble at the Austrian frontier stations owing to lack of trains to convey them to their destinations.

Odenburg, where thousands of the emigrants arrive from Bremen, has been especially unfortunate as the scene of riots, caused by the fact that the travellers are unable to get any further or to find lodgings in the town.

Temporary barracks are being built to accommodate them. Considerable anxiety has been caused the Government by the influx of the moneyless crowds, and instructions have been issued to the local authorities to help them in all possible ways.

CORNER FOR THE CITY COURT.

Metz Would Store the New Justices in Vacated Savings Bank Building.

Comptroller Metz at the meeting of the Board of Estimate to-day will recommend the housing of the new City Court Justices in the East River Savings Bank Building, at the corner of Park row and Chambers street. This building is one of those condemned by the city for the new bridge terminal and has been vacated by the bank. It is a commodious structure, and Mr. Metz said yesterday that as it will be long before the city is ready to tear it down the city will be practicing economy by turning it into a court building.

These most used to life's luxuries acknowledge Tipton Chianti (red or white wine) to be perfection.—Ad.

U. S. TROOPS GO TO GOLDFIELD

PRESIDENT SENDS SOLDIERS TO QUELL MINE STRIKE TROUBLE.

Operators Ready to Resume Work With Nonunion Men, but Are Fearful of the Western Federation of Miners—Strikers Said to Be Armed and Threatening.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—President Roosevelt to-night, on the formal request of Gov. Sparks of Nevada, ordered United States troops sent to Goldfield, where some 10,000 miners went on strike on Monday because their wages were paid in cashier's checks.

The situation there has been critical for several days, and an outbreak of violence has been expected at any moment.

Last night Gov. Sparks informed the President that in view of the probability that troops would be needed to restore order it would be well to have them in readiness to start at once.

To-night, on receipt of Gov. Sparks's request, orders were issued by the War Department directing Gen. Funston, in command at San Francisco, to hurry to Goldfield a sufficient number of men to deal with the situation.

Gen. Funston has been in touch with affairs at Goldfield for several days, and the War Department has left to his discretion the size of the force to be sent.

It is expected that troops from San Francisco will be rushed through on special trains and will reach Goldfield to-morrow afternoon, as the run is made in eighteen hours.

CARSON, Nev., Dec. 5.—Gov. Sparks this afternoon received urgent messages from Goldfield mine owners asking him to demand that troops be sent to Goldfield.

These messages Gov. Sparks transmitted to Gen. Funston and word came from Gen. Funston that two regiments, about 1,000 men in all, would leave San Francisco for Goldfield to-morrow morning.

The situation in Goldfield is this: The mine owners are ready to import nonunion men, but they want troops to be sent to protect these men, otherwise they know that lawless union strikers would kill any of the imported force they could reach.

The union miners are known to have 500 rifles and last night they stole a large quantity of powder from the Booth mine.

Only a strong show of force by the military will prevent a repetition of the Cripple Creek and Coudersport strikes.

GOLDFIELD, Nev., Dec. 5.—Goldfield to-day is under arms. Conflict between the striking miners and the townspeople is believed to be imminent. The mine owners to-day reiterated their determination not to resume operations until the Western Federation agitators have been driven out. The federation is preparing to make its last stand here in the struggle for existence.

Mining camps in other parts of the State are in accord with the operators here. The situation is made more grave here by the fact that Nevada has no National Guard and the local peace officers are too few in numbers to cope with trouble.

DENVER, Dec. 5.—William D. Haywood, secretary-treasurer of the Western Federation of Miners, to-day said:

"The miners at Goldfield have been fair, and I cannot conceive how Federal troops could be called. I have just returned from Goldfield. The miners were despatched at the cashier's check system. They offered to accept half their wages in cashier's checks and the other half in gold."

"The value of cashier's checks has greatly deteriorated in Goldfield and they are not generally accepted. The miners were willing to save them until the panicky situation had been alleviated. But it was necessary for the miners to go, which in Goldfield necessitated that a portion of their wages be paid in gold."

GERMAN CRISIS PASSED.

Van Buelow Appeals Successfully to the Majority in the Reichstag.

BERLIN, Dec. 5.—The political crisis as a result of which it was intimated that Chancellor von Buelow might resign was brought to a close by the leaders of the Ministerial bloc parties, namely the Conservatives and National Liberals, declaring in the Reichstag on behalf of their followers that they intended to continue to support the policy of the bloc in its understanding with the Government. They also expressed full confidence in Chancellor von Buelow.

This is the first time that a Chancellor has appealed to the majority in the Reichstag for support which would insure his continuance in office.

The day's session of the Reichstag was brief but stormy. Dr. Bebel, on behalf of the Social Democrats, protested against the new order of dealing with national affairs, while the representative of the Catholic party ironically remarked that he would not say anything that might impair the celestial harmony that now existed.

The whole proceedings passed amid laughter and ironical cheers.

GOODWIN REMOVED.

Loughman Gets the Job and Ross Williams Succeeds Loughman.

Deputy Commissioner Frank J. Goodwin of the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity was removed yesterday by Commissioner O'Brien and M. F. Loughman, secretary to the Park Board, appointed in his place.

Commissioner O'Brien asked Goodwin for his resignation on Tuesday. Late yesterday afternoon Goodwin went to Commissioner O'Brien's office and announced that he was not going to resign and that it was up to the Commissioner to remove him.

"All right," Mr. O'Brien promptly answered, "you are removed."

When Commissioner O'Brien was afterwards asked upon what grounds he had removed Goodwin he replied shortly, "For the good of the service."

The Park Board appointed Ross Williams to succeed Mr. Loughman. Williams is the Tammany leader of the Seventeenth district and is known as a McClellan man.

OUR CRUISERS AT CALLAO.

The Tennessee and Washington to Stay a Week in Peruvian Port.

SPECIAL CABLE DISPATCH TO THE SUN.
LIMA, Peru, Dec. 5.—The United States cruisers Tennessee and Washington, under the command of Rear Admiral Sebree, arrived to-day at Callao on their way to San Francisco.

The cruisers anchored some distance from the shore. The health conditions on both vessels are excellent. They will remain here for a week to take on board 3,500 tons of coal provided by Grace & Co.

Shortly after the vessels came to anchor the Port Captain boarded the Washington and saluted Admiral Sebree in the name of the Government. Admiral Sebree thanked him and invited him to the Admiral's cabin, where healths were drunk in champagne.

The vessels received and sent mails. At noon Admiral Sebree transferred his flag to the Tennessee. Crowds gathered along the shore watching the ceremony of transference.

LANTERN ABLAZE ON THE STAGE.

Incident That Caused No Alarm at the Metropolitan.

Shortly after the curtain rose on the second act of "La Bohème" at the Metropolitan Opera House last night there was a puff of smoke, a sudden round ball of flame and then one of the Japanese lanterns that hung across the front of the stage as part of the decorations of the café setting began to wither up in fire.

Mme. Sembrich and Bonci were singing a duet at the time at the left of the stage away from the lantern. There was a knot of supers and chorus singers gathered behind the flaming lantern. One of the supers garbed as a gendarme did the most natural thing for a well trained gendarme to do; he stepped out and pulled the blazing lantern down from the string of lights and stamped it out under foot.

Neither Mme. Sembrich nor Bonci was at all disturbed by the diversion, and the whole thing happened so quickly that no one in the audience had a chance to lose his head before it was all over.

PROVIDENT LIFE INQUIRY.

District Attorney's Attention Called to Disclosures by Examiners.

E. E. Rittenhouse, the Colorado Insurance Commissioner who has been investigating the affairs of the Provident Savings Life Assurance Society, sent to District Attorney Jerome yesterday a statement of the affairs of the company, which is understood to contain charges of criminality in the management of the affairs of the company. Assistant District